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Skegness Urban District
Council



Annual Report

of the

*Medical Officer of
Health*

For the Year 1954



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SKEGNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1954

To the Chairman and Members of the Skegness Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Twentieth Annual Report.

Statistics.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	4,411.788
Number of inhabited houses 1953	...	...	...	...	...	4,274
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1953	...	...	...	...	...	£136,776
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£550
Population Est. Mid Year 1953	...	...	...	...	...	12,510

Extracts from Vital Statistics during the Year.

	Total		Males		Females
Births	246	...	120	...	126
Deaths	135	...	64	...	71
Birth Rate	19.6	...	Death Rate	10.7	
Number of Women dying in consequence of childbirth	{	from Sepsis	...		Nil
	{	from other causes			Nil
Deaths of infants under one year of age	...	...			6
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	24.3
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	28
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoeæ (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year. The figures are:—

		Total cases notified.		Cases admitted to Hospital.		Total Deaths.
Dysentery	... ..	1	...	Nil	...	Nil
Scarlet Fever	... ..	2	...	1	...	Nil
Diphtheria	... ..	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Erysipelas	... ..	2	...	Nil	...	Nil
Pneumonia	... ..	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Measles	... ..	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Cerebro-Spinal-Fever		Nil	..	Nil	...	Nil
Malaria	... ..	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Poliomyelitis	... ..	2	...	2	...	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Whooping Cough	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Meningitis	... ..	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
		<hr/> 7 <hr/>	...	<hr/> 3 <hr/>	...	<hr/> Nil <hr/>

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There were no cases notified during the year.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. D. Fraser Menzies, M.B., Ch.B. (St. And.).

Sanitary Inspector: S. James, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.Inst.P.C.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: G. W. Robinson, C.R.S.I.

CECIL AVENUE INFANT WELFARE CLINIC.

The Infant Welfare Clinic is held each Friday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Dr. Caton and one Health Visitor are in attendance to give professional advice. All other duties are carried out by the Voluntary Committee. Mothers and their babies are entered in the Attendance Register, the babies are weighed and a record is kept of their weight each week. Tea is provided during the afternoon for those who are waiting either to have baby weighed or to see Doctor. Dried Milk, Baby Foods and Cereals are sold at cost price, Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice are also dispensed. 275 Children were registered during the year.

Immunisation and vaccination by Clinic Doctor each Friday.

Toddlers now attend Toddlers Clinic by appointment and have sunlight treatment and see Doctor if necessary.

WINTHORPE INFANT WELFARE CLINIC.

The Clinic is held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays in the month from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Health Visitor and two members of the Voluntary Committee are in attendance.

Babies are weighed and a record is kept of their progress.

Mothers are able to purchase Baby Foods and Cereals, Cod Liver Oil, Orange Juice.

Average attendance was six.

I am indebted to Mrs. D. T. Edwards for this excellent report and for which I tender my grateful thanks. I also wish to thank the nurses and Committee of the Association for their excellent work throughout the year. Immunisation and Vaccination are also carried out by all Medical Practitioners in the town.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

Arrangements are made to send infectious cases to the Isolation Hospitals at Boston, Lincoln or Grimsby.

The Regional Hospital Board has arranged for the regular attendance at Skegness and District Hospital for out-patient clinics, of a Physician, Surgeon, Orthopædic Surgeon, Gynecologist, Cadeologist, Paediatrician and Radiologist. An Ophthalmologist attends at the Clinic, Cecil Avenue, on 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. There is also a department for Physiotherapy. In some cases these visits are not frequent enough, with the result that cases are sent away to other hospitals which should, and could, be treated in the local hospital.

The accommodation of the aged people who are sick or infirm, and require some nursing care, is becoming an ever increasing problem. Although there are a few nursing homes in the area for the purpose the fees are beyond the means of most aged persons. I trust the County Council will endeavour to solve this problem in the near future.

Immunisation.

It is important that young children should be immunised and vaccinated. I am afraid many parents are becoming careless in this respect, and there is therefore a falling off in the number of children who are given the protection against disease to which they are entitled.

Venereal Diseases.

There is a local centre for the treatment of venereal diseases and sessions are held each week on Thursday evenings.

Tuberculosis.

The County Council provide for the treatment of tuberculosis. A clinic for this purpose is established at Skegness, and sessions are held each Tuesday afternoon. An arrangement, whereby cases of suspected tuberculosis can be X-Rayed at Skegness Hospital has proved most convenient and beneficial to the residents of Skegness.

GENERAL HEALTH.

There is nothing outstanding to report as the general health of the town has been most satisfactory.

DAY NURSERY.

The Nursery was open during the summer months and accommodated children from one to five years of age. The nursery is now carried on by Councillor Mrs. E. Barratt in a voluntary capacity and in her very capable hands is very successful. I think Mrs. Barratt's efforts in this direction are to be highly commended.

Scavenging.

The removal and disposal of house and trade refuse and the cleansing of earth closets, privies and cesspools in the area is carried out by the Council, and is under the direct supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Salvage work requires constant thought and attention, and excellent results were obtained during the year from this source.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action, or result of action taken in regard to these will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Schools.

The sanitary conditions and water supply at the public elementary schools are good.

The County School Medical Officer regularly inspects the Schools and the children. Any treatment required can be obtained through the medical practitioners in the town and through the various schemes provided by the Education Committee.

Shops Act.

Inspections are made from time to time and the action taken will be found in the tabulated report.

Housing.

Your Council has made extremely good progress with the building of new houses, including bungalows for aged persons. It seems, however, that the number of applicants for new houses still keeps at a high level, so creating a problem which can become permanent unless other solutions to a housing problem can be found.

District Nurses.

There are once again two District Nurses in Skegness. Their work is most efficient and the care and comfort derived by patients from these nurses is considerable.

Report on Housing Acts Inspections.

The number of inspections made and the action taken will be found in the tabulated report.

Water Supply.

A plentiful supply of wholesome water is obtained from the Candlesby and Welton boreholes.

On analysis this water is found to be of excellent quality and purity. A copy report is appended.

Laboratory Report No. 5703.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER REPORT.

The sample of water marked, Tap on Main Supply, Town Hall, Skegness, collected on 29.6.54, has been examined, and with the following results :—

Agar plate count, at 37°C, for two days	...	= 0 per 100 ml.
Faecal coli	... ..	not found in 100 ml.
Probable number of coliform bacilli	...	none per 100 ml.

REMARKS : CLASS I (highly satisfactory).

(Signed) R. S. RALPH,
M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
Laboratory Director.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	7	7	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	86	90	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	5	5	—	—
Total ..	6	98	112	1	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)		—	—		
Overcrowding (S.2)		—	—		
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)		1	1		
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)		—	—		
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)		—	—		
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient		—	—	—	
(b) Unsuitable or defective		3	3	—	
(c) Not separate for sexes		1	1	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)		—	—	—	
Total ..		5	5	—	—

Meat and Food.

Your Council took over the control of the abattoir from the Ministry of Food in July, 1954, and I am pleased to note that the change over took place smoothly, and the arrangements made with the local butchers are working satisfactorily.

The area served by the abattoir is the Urban Area, the Urban Areas of Alford, Mablethorpe and Sutton and parts of the Spilsby Rural District.

Visits are made by your Council's Meat Inspectors during hours of slaughter, and a detailed report of the number of animals killed and the action taken with respect to the number of animals inspected and the meat condemned as unfit for human consumption will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Shops and other premises where food is prepared or deposited for the purpose of sale have been regularly inspected and are, on the whole, very well kept.

Milk Supply.

I consider the milk supply in this town is excellent. With the exception of approximately fifty gallons per day, all the milk sold is Heat Treated or Tuberculin Tested.

The following licences were granted during the year:—

Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	13
Pasturised Milk	...	...	...	...	7
Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	5

Ice Cream.

Thirty-two samples of ice cream were sent to the Analyst, who reports on the samples as follows:—

Grade I — 23	...	Grade II — 4
Grade III — 1	...	Grade IV — 4

Regular visits are made to premises where ice cream is manufactured or sold by retail, and help and advice given where necessary.

Bakehouses.

There are no underground bakehouses in the area. All the bakehouses are of a good type, clean and well kept, and give little or no cause for complaint.

Sale of Food and Drugs.

This work is carried out by the County Council.

Swimming Pools.

Copy of Analysis, Skegness Bathing Pool:—

BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER REPORT.

2-6-54.

Plate Count Yeastrel Agar 2 days 37° Aerobically 0 per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days—
37°C 0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli ... 0 per 100 ml.

This water is very satisfactory for bathing purposes.

Factories.

The work carried on is chiefly dressmaking and millinery, joinery, motor and cycle repairs, photography, upholstery and electrical materials.

On the whole these places are well kept. It is only on occasions that it is necessary to take any action with regard to them.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. FRASER MENZIES, M.B., Ch.B. (St. And.),
Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Administration :

Report of work done by Sanitary Inspector for the year 1954.

Total No. of New Houses Erected during the Year ...	64
(I.) By the Local Authority	38
(II.) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(III.) By other bodies or persons	26

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(I.) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	370
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	771
(2) (a) No. of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be unfit for human habitation (Section 9. Housing, Repairs and Rents Act, 1954).	Nil
(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be fit for human habitation ...	360

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—

No. of Defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	355
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	1
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	1
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	4
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(3) No. of dwelling-houses subject to undertakings or Closing Orders	2
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit	Nil

(e) Proceedings under Sections 25 and 26:—	
(1) No. of Clearance Orders made	Nil
(2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance thereof	Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

(a) No. of applications for grants received ...	4
(b) No. of grants made	2
(c) No. of applications for grants made by Local Authority	Nil

Movable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.—

No. of site licences	17
No. of individual licences	Nil
No. inspected during year—Sites	51
Dwellings	Nil
No. of contraventions remedied	6

FOOD PREMISES.

Bakehouses—

No. in district	9
No. of inspections	33
No. of contraventions	1
Defects remedied	1

Milk Supplies—

No. of distributors on register—	
Sterilised	13
Past.	7
T.T.	5
N/D	Nil
No. of samples of milk taken in course of delivery (other than biological)—	
Sterilised	Nil
Past.	Nil
T.T.	Nil
N/D	Nil

No. of samples satisfactory—

Sterilised	...	...	...	Nil
Past.	...	...	...	Nil
T.T.	...	...	...	Nil
N/D	...	...	...	Nil
No. of inspections of dairy premises	...	...	...	4
No. of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	Nil

Ice Cream—

No. of manufacturers on register	...	...	...	9
No. of premises licensed for sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	134
No. of inspections of premises made	...	...	...	36
No. of Contraventions found	...	...	...	5
No. of Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	5
No. of samples taken	...	...	Grade I	23
			Grade II	4
			Grade III	1
			Grade IV	4

Meat Products—

No. of premises licensed for manufacture of meat products	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
No. of inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
No. of Contraventions found	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. of Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Other Food Premises—

No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	79
No. of Contraventions found	...	...	...	...	...	3
No. of Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	...	3

Unsound Food.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ..	1476	246	138	5352	4635
Number inspected	1476	246	138	5352	4635
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcases condemned	11	14	10	9	46
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	140	68	4	15	265
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	10.2	33.3	10.1	0.4	6.7
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned	9	5	—	—	10
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	158	55	—	—	134
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	11.3	24.3	—	—	3.1

Other Foods Condemned

Tinned Goods 949	Tins	Chicken Cutlets 26
Cooked Meat 7½ lbs.	Potted Meat 3	Cartons
Pork 270 lbs.	Cockles 1	Sack
Mutton 604 lbs.	Smoked Cod 2	Stone
Beef 223 lbs.	Cheese 24½	lbs.
Liver 5 lbs.	Biscuits 24	lbs.
Sausage—Beef 70 lbs.	Dried Apricots 28	lbs.
Pork 133 lbs.	Coconut Ice 20	Bars
Pork Pies 10		

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food—

Meat—Disposed of to Contractors.

Other Foods—Destruction by fire or burial after suitable treatment.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Closets—

No. of houses with privy vaults in district ...	Nil
No. of houses with pail closets in district ...	18
No. of pail closets repaired ...	2
No. of water-closets substituted for dry receptacles	Nil
No. of houses with water-closets in district ...	4,320
No. of water-closets repaired ...	36

Drains—

Drains examined, tested, exposed, &c. ...	9
„ unstopped, repaired, &c. ...	55

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal—

New lengths of sewers laid.	—
New sewage disposal works provided at	—
Details of improvements to existing works	—

Cesspools—

Cesspools emptied, cleansed, &c. ...	Weekly
„ abolished ...	Nil

WATER SUPPLIES—

New sources of supply—public ...	Nil
New sources of supply—private ...	Nil
No. of supplies closed as polluted ...	Nil
No. of houses supplied from public mains—	
On premises ...	4,319
Standpipe ...	Nil
No. of houses supplied from private sources—	
On premises ...	Nil
Not on premises ...	Nil
Any part requiring a public supply or the replacement of a public supply for public health reasons ...	
No. of samples taken for chemical examination—	
From public supplies—	
Satisfactory ...	4
Unsatisfactory ...	Nil
From private supplies—	
Satisfactory ...	Nil
Unsatisfactory ...	Nil

No. of samples taken for bacteriological examination :—

From public supplies—

Cl. I ...	...	...	...	9
Cl. II ...	...	...	...	27
Cl. III	...	...	...	Nil
Cl. IV	...	...	...	Nil

From private supplies—

Cl. I ...	...	...	...	2
Cl. II ...	...	...	...	Nil
Cl. III	...	...	...	Nil
Cl. IV	...	...	...	I

GENERAL.

Offensive Trades—

No. of premises in district	...	...	...	...	Nil
†No. of Inspections	...	...	...	...	Nil
Contraventions of by-laws	...	...	...	...	Nil
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	Nil

Knackers Yards—

No. Licensed	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of Inspections	...	...	...	...	Nil
Defects Remedied	...	...	...	...	Nil

Shops Act, 1950—

Number of shops inspected	...	...	...	...	75
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	7

Disinfection, etc.—

Rooms disinfected :

(a) ordinary infectious disease	...	...	...	5
(b) tuberculosis	...	...	...	5
Rooms stripped and cleansed	...	...	...	Nil
No. of premises disinfested	...	...	...	15

House Refuse—

No. of premises from which refuse is collected	...	...	...	...	4,574
Frequency of collection	...	...	...	...	Weekly— Twice weekly— Parts of in summer.
Method of disposal	...	...	...	...	Controlled Tip
Is this satisfactory ?	...	...	...	...	Yes
Is collection by Local Authority or contract	...	...	...	...	Local Authority.

Nuisances—

Total Number of Nuisances during year :

(1)	Abated as result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector	60
(2)	Reported to Council, Statutory notice issued	4
	Statutory notice not issued	Nil

Details of Nuisances abated—

	After Informal intimation	After Statutory Notice
Smoke	4	Nil
Accumulation of refuse ...	14	Nil
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	3	Nil
Fowls, pigs and other animals	2	Nil
Dampness	30	Nil
Drainage	11	Nil
Other nuisances	—	Nil

Rats and Mice Destruction—

No. of rodent operatives employed	One
No. of Premises treated :	
(a) Dwelling houses	468
(b) Other Premises	6
Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in district?	No
Rodent Control Visits	47
Infectious Disease Visits	11
Inspections under Petroleum Acts	40
Miscellaneous Visits—including salvage and House Refuse Removal	327

